

**Minutes of the East Greenwich School Committee
Tuesday, January 4, 2011
Hanaford School Cafeteria
200 Middle Road
East Greenwich, RI 02818**

ANY ITEMS ON THE AGENDA MAY BE SUBJECT TO A VOTE

6:00p.m. Executive Session, Vote to go into executive session for discussion and/or action regarding those items of business exempt from open meetings under General Laws of Rhode Island 42-46-5 (a)(2) and (a) (8) Update on Current Litigation and Student Hearing.

The regular session of the East Greenwich School Committee was called to order in the Hanaford School Cafeteria at 7:05 by School Committee Chair Dr. Deidre Gifford. Those in attendance were Mr. Bob Durant, Vice Chair; Mrs. Mary Ellen Winters; Mrs. Susan Records; Mr. Jack Sommer, and Mr. David Green. Mr. Paul Martin was absent. Also present were Superintendent Dr. Victor Mercurio; Director of Administration Mrs. Maryanne Crawford, and Director of Student Services Paula Dillion.

7:05p.m.Regular meeting

I. Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag

The meeting commenced with the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

II. Public Comments

There were no public comments.

III. Approval of Minutes

On a motion by Mr. Durant and seconded by Mrs. Winter, the regular and executive session minutes of December 21, 2010 were unanimously approved.

IV. Recognitions

The Cole Geography Bee winner was recognized by the Committee.

V. Superintendent's Report

Dr. Mercurio noted there is a Board of Regents meeting on January 6, 2011 to discuss the proposed tiered diploma system. He will report his findings in his Friday newsletter to the Committee.

VI. Action Items

a. Field Trip

On a motion by Mr. Durant and seconded by Mr. Green, Cole Middle School Field Trip to Loon Mountain in Lincoln, New Hampshire on Saturday, January 29, 2011 was unanimously approved.

b. Building Committee Recommendations/EGHS Library modernization and technology

Building Committee Chair Mr. Jay Gowell discussed recommended renovations which include the EGHS library and EGHS technology upgrades to infrastructure and classrooms. The Building Committee welcomes School Committee involvement and guidance and is seeking approval to proceed. Mr. Gowell noted the roof situation throughout the district needs to be addressed. He noted the Building Committee is in consensus in fixing the EGHS roof as a top priority item. He also noted that Meadowbrook needs to be addressed and there are several options that need to be discussed. Dr. Mercurio discussed the potential renovation of EGHS library space looking at the proposal in two ways: First, the library upgrade was a recommendation by the NEASC visiting team in 2000 with specific recommendations regarding services and space. Secondly, the upgrades to the EGHS would be based on the new Cole technology (Cole RFP) which will offer students a comparable level of technology moving from Cole to EGHS. Dr. Mercurio discussed current technology issues at the EGHS which include a limited number of computers in the library and sporadic internet access. Mrs. Records would like the Technology Advisory Committee to review this recommendation and do a full analysis of the current infrastructure.

The projected cost of the recommended renovations for the library is approximately \$500,000, infrastructure enhancements \$331,300, and classroom enhancements \$333,700. Total project cost for EGHS technology upgrade is \$665,000. Mr. Gowell discussed the poor lighting in the EGHS library which has been an ongoing issue and a priority. Mr. Durant noted the Finance Committee is meeting on January 6, 2011 to discuss the ESCO proposal which will address lighting. Dr. Gifford also noted that lighting has been an issue since the first bond and the district needs a comprehensive update for the entire building. Dr. Gifford would like either a comprehensive package of Building Committee recommendations or at least initial recommendations to present to the Town Council on January 31, 2011. Dr. Gifford would like to hold a joint meeting with the Building Committee and School Committee on January 11, 2011 to discuss recommendations and priority items. Building Committee recommendations will be discussed again at the January 18, 2011 School Committee meeting. Mr. Green questioned the priority items and the spending proposal. Mr. Gowell noted the Building Committee is dealing with decades of neglect on certain items.

c. Approval of Finance Committee Charge

The Finance Committee Charge was revised to change the number of community members from 5 to “up to 7 members.” Language was also revised noting the two School Committee members are “non-voting, ex-officio members.” On a motion by Mr. Sommer and seconded by Mrs. Winters, the Finance Committee Charge was unanimously approved with amended changes. Mr. Durant noted there is still one spot for a community member on the Finance Committee and the spot may be filled this week.

d. Approval of Policy for Audio/Visual Recordings at Meetings-2nd reading/adoption

On a motion by Mr. Durant and seconded by Mrs. Winters, the Policy for Audio/Visual Recordings (2nd read) was unanimously adopted with minor language changes.

VII. Discussion Items

a. Middle School Transition

Mrs. Meyer received samples of new furniture for Cole and will be setting up a meeting with the furniture and fixture team. Transition meetings will also be set up with Ocean State Transit and Aramark. Mr. Durant and Mr. Green asked about the physicality of the new building and if school is on target to open in April. Dr. Mercurio noted the Building Committee gets frequent updates from the builder regarding work that has been completed and noted the building is on schedule. Mrs. Meyer noted that she spoke with Gilbane representatives who noted work is on target. Dr. Gifford would like a report from SBS to update the Committee on progress.

b. Budget 2011-UCOA (budget vs. actual)

Mrs. Crawford, Director of Administration, discussed the YTD Budget Report which details each budget line comparing budget vs. actual. Mrs. Crawford noted there is a tentative meeting scheduled at RIDE to discuss UCOA. She also noted the new UCOA process is time consuming and a tedious process due to the amount of detail. Mrs. Crawford noted we are half way through the year and heating costs and out of district costs have been contained and health insurance claims are lower than normal. Mr. Sommer questioned Mrs. Crawford whether reporting could be done using crystal reports. Mrs. Crawford will have to work with the town IT Director to change the format. Dr. Gifford would like a brief 2-3 page report for this Committee and the in-depth detailed reports for the Finance Committee. Mrs. Crawford sent the financial audit to the Auditor General on December 28, 2010. Once the process is complete, the School Committee will need to meet with the Town Council (Feb/March).

c. Field's Use – Memo of Understanding

Dr. Gifford asked that the Fields' Committee reconvene to provide input on the MOU as significant revisions need to be made and also the Athletic Director needs to be contacted regarding dug-outs.

d. Finance Committee Report

Mr. Durant noted the next Finance Committee is Thursday, January 6, 2011. New members will attend this meeting and the ESCO proposal will be reviewed. Members will also been given the UCOA report detailing budget vs. actual. Budget workshop dates will be set up with Finance Committee members and administrators.

e. Concession Stand

Mr. Mike Feeney, of the former Fields' Construction Committee, stated that plans for the Concession Stand are in the Town's possession. He will draft a letter granting the Town of East Greenwich full use of the concession stand construction plans. Mr. Feeney asked that various stakeholders (i.e. Lacrosse, Soccer, Booster Club, Little League, and Baseball) have the opportunity to give input into the Field's Use MOU. Dr. Gifford noted the MOU (draft) will be reviewed by the school, town, and stakeholders such as the groups listed above and they will be able to provide input. Mrs. Winters would like the names of the stakeholders who wish to be involved in drafting the MOU. Mr. Feeney also discussed field usage and rental. Mr. Feeney discussed the cost of the Concession Stand and noted the figure (\$128,000) given by Joe Duarte is fairly accurate and noted the savings if town employees work on the project. Mr. Sommer questioned the possibility of various groups volunteering their time to build the Concession Stand. Fundraising was discussed in regards to the donors who would like to be acknowledged on the scoreboard and press books. Dr. Gifford would like a complete list of the donors who were promised advertising. Mr. Feeney noted there is approximately \$15,000 left from fundraising and discussed the possibility of using the money for dug-outs, track, and other items. Dr. Gifford would like Mr. Feeney to give the Committee a wish list of recommended items to be purchased with remaining funds. Lastly, Mr. Feeney discussed the brick fund which was headed by the Booster Club. Funds have been put aside for a brick walkway on the field, but more money is needed along with School Committee and town involvement.

f. Mr. Martin's report on school visitations

Mr. Martin was not present to give a report.

VIII. School Committee Concerns

The only item noted was a reminder of the joint meeting with the Building Committee and the School Committee on January 11, 2011 at the EGHS guidance conference room.

X. Adjournment

On a motion by Mr. Durant and seconded by Mrs. Winters, the meeting was adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

CHRISTINE DIMEGLIO
SECRETARY